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BOROUGH OF BECCLES



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1959

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.

B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	H. E. NUTTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	E. H. CRANMER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
MEAT INSPECTOR (part-time)	J. C. TAYLOR, M.R.C.V.S.

Beccles 3113.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES.
SUFFOLK.

19th May, 1960.

B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1959

To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Beccles Borough
Council.

Your Worship, Mrs. Taylor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1959.

There has been a further drop in the population for the fourth successive year. In 1955 the estimated population was 7,130 and in mid 1959 it was 6,960 - a decrease of 170.

The adjusted Birth Rate is still somewhat lower than the National average. The Maternal Mortality Rate is again Nil.

Of the cause of death, diseases of the circulatory system, as usual, heads the list.

Four cases were added to the tuberculosis register during the year. Three were new cases and one was an inward transfer from another area.

An event of very considerable Public Health importance during the year was the opening of the new Public Open Air Swimming Bath in the Borough.

The old Swimming Pool, which was merely a fenced-off part of the River Waveney and was demonstrably sewage polluted had been a source of concern to my predecessors and myself for many years.

At the request of the Minister of Health and also because the subject is of importance, I record some details of the new Swimming Pool.

It is situated in Pudding Moor, by the River Waveney near the centre of the Town, measures 100 ft. x 50 ft., and is 3 ft. deep at the shallow end. There is a 12 ft. diving pit at the deep end. It is constructed of re-inforced concrete, finished in blue enamel, with a perimeter scum channel. There is concrete decking, with turf and flower beds surrounding. There are footbaths at the entrance to the Pool, and spectators are separated from the surround by a guard rail. Electricity and mains water supply are available and it is anticipated that main sewerage will be provided within a year.

The Pool is filled at the outset of the season by mains water supply. Treatment is by filtration, aeration cascade and break-point chlorination, with chemical dosage of soda and alumina to control pH. The water is changed every 7 hours at the rate of 524 gallons per minute. 'Topping up' is from the mains water supply.

The following is a typical Chemical Analysis:-

Appearance	Clear
Deposit	Nil
Colour	Nil
Taste	Satisfactory
Odour	Nil
pH	7.0
Reaction	Neutral.

Parts per million

Chlorine as Chlorides	54
Total Hardness	315
Alkalinity	230
Free Carbon Dioxide	30
Iron	0.12

A typical bacteriological report reads as follows:-

Nature of sample - Water from Swimming Pool.

Date & Hour of collection 20.7.59. 1330 hrs.

Date & Hour of arrival 20.7.59. 1420 hrs.

Date of Report 22.7.59.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 24 hrs. 37°C. aerobically - 0 per ml.

Plate Count. 48 hrs. @ R.T. 0

Probable number of Coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° -
0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of Bact. coli (type 1) - per 100 ml.

Remarks - Satisfactory for bathing purposes.

Another major event of Public Health significance was the discontinuance of the use of the Caxton Road Slaughterhouse and the transferring of the business to new premises in Common Lane.

Due to their thoroughly unsatisfactory siting, surrounded as they were on all sides by densely developed housing, and their inadequacy for the volume of work carried out, the Caxton Road premises had been a Public Health anxiety for years.

The new premises in Common Lane must be among the best in the Country. There is adequate covered lairage; a modern stunning pen ensures the painless dispatch of animals, and a mechanically operated bleeding hoist and rail ensures maximum bleeding. The dressing area (in common with all parts of the premises where meat is handled) is tiled to a height of 7 feet and is adequate for the purpose, measuring 1,232 square feet. The pre-cooling area is 2,000 sq. ft. and the cold store is 560 sq. ft. Separate rooms are provided for the cleansing of stomachs and intestines, a refrigerator is installed for the retention of condemned meat subsequently released for pharmaceutical purposes. Separate office accommodation is provided for the Council's Inspectors. A separate tiled hall for the boning out and processing of meat is in the course of construction.

The opening of these new premises provided the opportunity of improving slaughtering technique. The unsatisfactory 'wiping down' of carcasses has been abolished, and spraying substituted. In addition, in an attempt to inhibit the multiplication of organisms deposited on meat, it is pushed into cold storage immediately after inspection, and kept there until despatch.

As an ancillary to the new abattoir, a meat processing plant has also been constructed. Provision is made for the heat treatment of meat unfit for human consumption, the centrifugal extraction of fat and the grinding of bones. The fat from this plant is used for soap manufacture and other industrial processes; the remainder for fertiliser and animal foodstuffs.

Both the Norwich Mass Radiography Unit and the Community X-Ray Survey visited the Borough during the early part of the year. The results were as follows:-

Total population over 15	5,155
X-rayed by Mass Radiography in Beccles (over 15 years)	1,738
X-rayed by Community Survey Unit over 15 resident in Beccles, 1,303 plus 105 over 15 x-rayed at Grammar and Secondary Modern School	1,408
Unavailable - reasons known 279 }	
Unavailable - reasons unknown 35 }	314
Previous X-rays	99

<u>Population</u>	<u>Unavailable</u>	<u>Non-attenders</u>	<u>Previous X-rays</u>	<u>Total X-rayed</u>
5,155	314	1,596	99	3,146

= 62.9% of total population X-rayed.

67.0% of available population X-rayed.

Summary of all X-rays taken at Beccles.

Schoolchildren X-rayed by Community Survey Unit -

Under 15	1,466
Over 15 (inc. resident in Beccles)	339

Schoolchildren X-rayed by Mass Unit

Under 15	14
	<hr/>
	1,819
	<hr/>

Total X-rayed by Mass Radiography Unit including outsiders and children 2,627

<u>Total X-rayed by Community Survey Unit - General public including outsiders -</u>	1,448
Children under 15	1,466
Children over 15	339
	<hr/>
	3,253
	<hr/>

Total X-rayed by both units - 5,880

The information in the report on food premises, shops, factories and housing is completed by your Public Health Inspector to whom I am indebted.

H. E. NUTTEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES.
SUFFOLK.

19th May, 1960.

Tel. Beccles 3113.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,017
Registrar-General's estimate of population (mid-1959)	6,960
Number of inhabited houses	2,606
Rateable Value	£92,103
Product of Penny Rate	£365

	Beccles	England & Wales
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Number	99	-
Rate per 1,000 population	14.2	16.5
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Per cent of total live births	5.0	*
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>		
Number	3	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	29.4	20.7
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>	102	-
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (deaths under 1 year)	3	-
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	30.3	22.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	31.9	*
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	*
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births.)	10.1	15.8
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	10.1	*
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	39.2	*
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	Nil	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil	0.38

* not yet available.

	Male	Female	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Total	51	48	99
Legitimate	47	47	94
Illegitimate	4	1	5
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Total	2	1	3
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total	2	1	3
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE</u>			
Total	-	1	1
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE</u>			
Total	-	1	1
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS - all ages</u>	51	46	97

RATES

	Beccles Municipal Borough	England & Wales
Illegitimacy rate (per 1,000 live births)	50.5	×
Adjusted Birth Rate	15.0	-
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.9	11.6
Adjusted Death Rate	10.9	-

Comparability Factor (Births) 1.06

Comparability Factor (Deaths) 0.79

× Figures not yet available.

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

SEX	AGE	CAUSE OF DEATH
M	11 months	Gastro enteritis
F	1 hour	Meningeal Haemorrhage
M	8 months	Acute Bronchiolitis

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	2	2	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	12	18
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	4	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
20. Other heart disease	7	13	20
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	-	3
22. Influenza	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia	2	2	4
24. Bronchitis	3	3	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	6
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	<u>51</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>97</u>

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS
1952- 1959

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION</u>
1952	-	-	-	-
1953	1	2	3	0.43
1954	1	1	2	0.28
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	-	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
1958	-	-	-	-
1959	4	-	4	0.57
TOTAL	10	5	15	

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATE : COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local birth rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, therefore, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population materially affects its comparison by sex and age groups, are also adjusted on that account. Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth rate area comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

TABLE SHOWING THE MORE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>	<u>NO. OF DEATHS</u>		<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	
	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Diseases of circulatory system	46	37	48.42	38.15
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	18	22.10	18.56
Malignant diseases	9	10	9.47	10.30
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	4	10	4.21	10.30
Influenza	1	1	1.05	1.03
All other causes	14	21	14.73	21.64
TOTAL	95	97	99.98	99.98

In 1959, 67% of all deaths fell under the first three headings. The comparable figure for 1958 was 80%.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

YEAR

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Population	6,862	6,829	6,903	6,965	7,050	7,130	7,060	7,000	6,980	6,960
No. of inhabited houses	2,362	2,400	2,427	2,520	2,550	2,580	2,590	2,603	2,606	2,641
No. of Live Births	79	78	99	99	95	75	87	96	100	99
Birth Rate (Crude)	11.6	11.4	14.3	14.2	13.5	10.5	12.3	13.7	14.3	14.2
No. of Still Births	4	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate	25.3	12.8	30.3	0	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8	N11	30.3
(No. of Deaths)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(3)
No. of Deaths (all ages)	88	108	92	82	103	107	112	81	95	97
Death Rate (Crude)	12.9	15.8	13.4	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6	13.6	13.9

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

In Beccles Municipal Borough in 1959, 113 primary immunisations were carried out by the Child Welfare Clinic and General Practitioners. The ages of the children were as follows:-

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Numbers Immunised</u>
1959	33
1958	60
1957	14
1956	2
1955	-
1954	1
1953	-
1952	2
1951	-
1950	-
1949	-
1948	-
1945 - 1947	1
TOTAL	113

During the same year, 110 'Booster' doses were given.

Primary Immunisations:-

1958	100
1957	91
1956	73
1955	55
1954	93

TUBERCULOSIS

	Males		Females		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1958	22	2	6	3	33
No. of cases added during the year	3	-	1	-	4
No. of cases removed	-	-	1	-	1
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1959	25	2	6	3	36

CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER

New notifications - 3

Inward transfers - 1

Total 4

CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER

Recovered - 0

Died - 1

Removed to other area - 0

Total 1

CASES ON THE REGISTER, ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1959

AGE GROUP	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 5 years	2	-	2
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	3	4	7
25 - 44 years	12	3	15
44 - 64 years	9	2	11
65 years and over	1	-	1
Age unknown	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27	9	36
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No notifications.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	6	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	104	-	-
iii. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	58	110	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a. Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

There was one outworker on the August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)(2) engaged on the making, etc. of wearing apparel.

There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1959

To:-
His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles Borough Council.

I present my eleventh Annual Report since my appointment in May, 1949 as the Council's Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Act, 1936

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

There is no major change to report under this heading.

The great majority of properties in the Borough are provided with water-borne drainage facilities. Apart from a few houses on the outskirts well removed from the main sewerage system, Pudding Moor remains the only area where some form of conservancy is still in operation. It is proposed, in the not too distant future, to provide proper sewerage to this area.

The sewage of the Borough continues to gravitate to a point in Common Lane where, after screening and maceration, it is pumped to a tower from which it gravitates to a series of lagoons, in which some degree of sedimentation takes place. It then flows through a dyke system which also drains the Marshes, ultimately discharging into the River Waveney without any attempt having been made to re-introduce oxygen.

Some improvement was effected during the year by the provision of an additional lagoon but the summer being unusually warm and dry, the sewage was more concentrated and thus more offensive than usual. Several complaints were received from ratepayers in the northern part of the Borough of the vitiation of the atmosphere by this antiquated and inadequate system of sewage disposal.

A further result was the pumping of thousands of gallons of sewage laden effluent into the Waveney, on which so much of the charm of the Borough depends, at a time of low rainfall, when it was least able by natural means to purify it. At no time was a physical nuisance detected at the point of discharge, but the pursuit of clean rivers is surely of itself a desirable aim, even though it may not be possible to demonstrate prejudice to health.

Concern was also felt at the heavy breeding of mosquitoes in the sewage lagoons and dykes. Specimens were submitted for identification, and they were found to be of the cuticine species, which does not normally transmit disease in this Country. An attempt was made to lessen the nuisance by spraying breeding areas with larvicidal oil, but it must be admitted that this was little more than a token attempt.

The sewage disposal system of the Borough is in my opinion the greatest single Public Health nuisance in it, and the improvement of these conditions is becoming a matter of urgency.

The following works in connection with drainage and sanitation were carried out during the year:-

Drains unchoked

22

Defective drains repaired	16
Disused drains sealed	11
Defective rainwater conduits repaired	4
Interceptor traps renewed	1
Supply of water provided to sanitary accommodation	2
Broken vent pipe renewed	1
Sink waste pipe renewed	1

Refuse Collection

Refuse collection and disposal is the responsibility of the Borough Engineer. A weekly service is maintained. Disposal is by controlled tipping.

Six dustbins were supplied by owners following the service of informal notices.

Water Supply

Water is supplied to the Borough by the Barsham Bores Joint Water Board, which supplies the Borough of Beccles, the Wainford and Lothingland Rural Districts and part of the Borough of Lowestoft.

It has been sampled regularly on behalf of the Board and found to be of uniformly satisfactory standard, both bacteriologically and chemically. The summary of the report of a typical sample taken on 17th March, 1959 in Beccles was as follows:-

'The organic quality of this water is very good and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. The appearance, odour and taste of the sample were all satisfactory and in our opinion, this water is fit for drinking purposes.'

(Signed) Eric C. Wood,
for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.,
Analytical and Consulting Chemists, Norwich.

The only part of the Borough not supplied with piped water, apart from isolated cottages on the outskirts, is part of London Road. Samples of water from the wells supplying houses in this district were taken during the year and found to be unsatisfactory.

The provision of a new water tower at the site of the South Road Reservoirs has been approved by the Council. This will enable a supply of piped water to be provided to the part of London Road mentioned.

A completely new water service was provided to one dwelling house during the year as a result of informal representations to the owner.

Abatement of Nuisances

Representations were made to the owners of two factories about the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke during the year, and some improvement was noted.

The increasing use of diesel trains by British Railways has brought a continuing lessening of pollution of the atmosphere from railway engines at the Beccles Station.

In six cases, informal notices requiring the abatement of nuisances caused by accumulation of refuse were complied with.

Bathing Pool

As recorded in detail by the Medical Officer of Health the old Bathing Pool, a fenced-off part of the River Waveney, was abolished in 1959, and the modern Pool which the Council have provided, brought into use for the first time.

A close watch was kept on the bacteriological standard of the water, and in spite of the heavy use made of the Pool and the warm weather, it was uniformly satisfactory - a contrast indeed to the many reports made on the subject of the old Bathing Pool.

HOUSING

Demolition of Unfit Houses

Demolition Orders were made in respect of two unfit houses in the Borough during 1959.

Three premises, the subject of Closing Orders under the Housing Act, ceased to be used for human habitation during the year.

The following is a summary of work carried out under the Demolition and Closing provisions of the Housing Act since the War:-

Houses demolished	42
Houses thoroughly re-conditioned and made fit	5
Demolition Orders served, but houses still occupied	12
Demolition Orders served, tenant re-housed, but demolition not practicable, as integrated with occupied houses	11
Property acquired by Council with a view to re-development	8
Closing Orders served, and premises no longer used for human habitation	4
Closing Orders served, premises still occupied	1

It is to be regretted that it has not yet been possible to start the demolition of the property in Hungate Lane, which the Council acquired in 1956 with a view to the clearance and re-development of the area. In my opinion, the derelict buildings on the site are a menace to public health, and are potentially dangerous, and certain of the dwelling houses are grossly unfit for habitation. The question of re-letting these houses if and when they become vacant should not in my opinion arise, since the justification for acquiring them was to secure their demolition.

Housing Repairs

Notices were served in respect of fifteen dwellings which were considered to be unfit for human habitation, but capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit during the year. All were complied with after informal intimation.

Housing Improvements

Improvement grants were made in respect of 25 houses during 1959.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955

Food Preparation, Storage and Sale

Almost all shops, etc. where food is prepared, stored or sold in the Borough were inspected during the year. The following are among the works which the owners of such premises were required

to carry out:-

Provision of new dustbins	4
Provision of supply of hot and cold water	2
Renewal of hot water supply	2
Removal of accumulations	5
Provision of hand washing facilities	2
Provision of flue to cooker	1
Provision of impervious working surfaces	2
Provision of impervious wall surfaces	2
Renewal of broken floor	1
Provision of ceiling	1
Provision of artificial lighting to sanitary accommodation	1
Re-paving of yard surface	1
Provision of sink	1

DAIRIES

There are two dairies in the Borough pasteurising and distributing tuberculin tested milk. One was transferred to completely new premises during the year, and a very considerable improvement in conditions resulted, the other was run in a thoroughly satisfactory way.

There is also a dairy producing tuberculin tested milk. These premises, are, of course, licensed and controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Council have little control over them.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Two are attached to local butchery businesses, supplying meat to Beccles and the surrounding area only.

Their condition was carefully considered in the light of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and it was decided to recommend to the Council that after considerable work had been carried out, they would comply with the provisions of the Act. It is hoped that as a result considerable improvement will be effected in the coming year.

The third slaughterhouse, the subject of detailed information in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, was opened recently and approaches the model as far as such places is concerned. Almost all its products are sold outside the Borough, but needless to say, the responsibility for inspection of meat falls on the Council.

Meat Inspection

Meat inspection is carried out on a 'week-on, week-off' basis by the Council's Public Health Inspector and Captain J. C. Taylor, M.R.C.V.S., who is employed part-time by the Council exclusively for this work.

The carcasses and organs of all animals slaughtered in the Borough were inspected before being released for human consumption,

the following being a record of this work:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. Killed	6,715	417	3,859	2,079	13,070
No. Inspected	6,715	417	3,859	2,079	13,070
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	15	4	16	4	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,514	-	732	36	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	22.7%	.9%	19.3%	1.9%	
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	72	7	-	1	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	614	-	-	40	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.2%	1.6%	-	1.4%	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	
Generalised and totally condemned	6	-	-	-	

Some comment is called for on condemnation for tubercular conditions.

The proprietor of the largest slaughterhouse has contracted with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food to slaughter animals reacting positively to ante-mortem tuberculin testing in Norfolk and Suffolk. Needless to say, this has had the effect of greatly increasing condemnations for this condition. The figures should therefore be regarded with great satisfaction as indicating the removal of so many infectious animals from herds. Were it not for these positive re-actors there would be a very considerable reduction in condemnations for tuberculosis, and it is not hard to accept the widely held view that the complete elimination of bovine tuberculosis from the herds of the Country is in sight.

Processing of By-Products

A new factory was opened during the year for the processing of animal by-products, in conjunction with the Common Lane Abattoir.

Complaints were received of a nuisance from the premises. These were no doubt partially due to 'teething troubles' but also to inadequacy of water pressure for fume scrubbing. Steps are being taken to secure an improvement.

Other Foods

The following items of other foods were condemned as being

unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned Goods

Meat	93
Vegetables	28
Fruit	49
Fish	5
Milk and cream	10
Miscellaneous	4

Disposal of Condemned Food

Suitable condemned meat (chiefly livers affected with distomatosis and angiomatosis) were stored in a refrigerator under lock and key before release for pharmaceutical purposes.

Other diseased meat was stained, and processed in the plant at Common Lane for use as fertiliser or animal feeding.

Tinned goods were opened, burned and buried on the Council's refuse tip.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continued to employ one full-time rodent operator.

The sewers of the Borough were treated four times in 1959 in an effort to reduce the rat population, and there can be little doubt that this work has resulted in a lessening of infestation, both in the sewers and on the surface.

The very hot summer of 1959, resulted in an unprecedented number of complaints about wasp's nests. These were removed free of charge in 122 cases.

FACTORIES

There are fifty-five factories with Mechanical Power in the Borough, and three factories without.

Notice was served on the owner of one factory requiring the cleansing of the sanitary accommodation and the provision of lighting, and was complied with.

Strong representations were made in another case about the means of Escape in Case of Fire with satisfactory results.

E. H. CRANMER.

Public Health Inspector.

May, 1960.

